## August 2002

- 1. Discuss the various radiation measuring devices used in a Radiotherapy Department and their application in beam monitoring, dosimetry and Quality assurance.
- 2. Discuss the physical principles, design details and operational features of a modern therapy simulator. Discuss the relative roles of this equipment versus or in conjunction with the use of CT in treatment planning.

3.

- (a) Briefly outline the principles of the procedure for the absolute calibration of megavoltage photon and electron beams (i.e. the determination of the dose per monitor unit under reference conditions) in a radiotherapy department.
- (b) Comment on the choice of phantom material and type of radiation detector used for these calibrations.
- (c) What factors need to be taken into account in the calculation of the number of monitor units required to deliver a particular dose from a given megavoltage beam to a particular point on the axis of that beam within a patient?
- (d) How does the linear accelerator control the number of monitor units which it delivers in an irradiation?

4

- (a) Discuss briefly the basic principles of brachytherapy and its advantages and disadvantages relative to external beam therapy.
- (b) Describe the sources, the method of positioning them within the tissues, and the equipment typically employed in performing prostate brachytherapy at:
  - i. high dose rate and
  - ii. low dose rate.
- (c) Comment on the choice of radionuclide for these sources.
- 5. Discuss methods and techniques used in avoidance and detection of dose delivery errors in external beam radiation therapy.
- 6. Discuss the physical advantages and disadvantages of the following treatment methods in the treatment of an unresectable parotid carcinoma invading the zygoma
  - (a) static wedged pair photon beams (6MV)
  - (b) electron beam
  - (c) intensity modulated radiation therapy using 6MV photons.